



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: October 11, 2005
Release Number: TX 407.05

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$670,500 GRANT FOR THE CITY OF ODEM

ODEM, TEXAS, October 11, 2005—Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that the City of Odem has been selected to receive a Colonia Grant in the amount of \$670,500 from the agency's Water and Waste Disposal Program. The grant funds will be used for the construction of 60 water and 180 sewer connections to Bethel Estates and Southeast Odem, subdivisions outside the City designated as Colonias by the Texas Water Development Board. The existing septic systems do not operate properly and many do not meet minimum state standards.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to be part of a project with such importance," said Daniel. "These funds will enable the two subdivisions outside the City of Odem to update from individual septic systems to a wastewater collection system, and ensure that the community remains a safe and healthy place to live."

USDA Rural Development's Community Programs provide funding for construction, improvement, or expansion of water and waste disposal systems, telecommunication and education resources, and necessary community facilities.

USDA Rural Development's Water and Wastewater Program is designed to bring fresh, clean, drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Alice office at 361-668-0453, Ext. 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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